a number of cooperation measures to Pakistan for enhancing people to people contact across the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC), including the Jammu-Sialkot bus link. Pakistan's response is awaited.

ARM supply to Nepal

†1947. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pro-democrat leaders of Nepal have made an appeal to Government of India for not giving armaments to Nepal Government, if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(b) whether Government have changed the decision of not supplying arms to Nepal till the restoration of democracy there, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Nepal has got supply of arms from some other countries after India has stopped the supply, if so, the names of the countries which have extended their help to Nepal in supplying arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The issue of military supplies to Nepal remains under continuous review taking into account the evolving situation in that country.

Following the lifting of the Emergency in Nepal on April 29, 2005 and the release of several political party leaders and activists, Government of India has released some of the non-lethal supplies in the pipeline. The GOI decision hs been communicated to the King along with our expectations that His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) should take further and early steps towards the lifting of curbs on civil liberties and restoration of multi-party democracy in Nepal. The Governments of USA and UK have also released some non-lethal supplies.

Following our decision to release some non-lethal military supplies, political leaders in Nepal have called upon the Government of India to reconsider its decision which they believe would encourage the King to continue with his present approach. On our part, we have explained to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

political leaders the context in which a decision to release a limited consignment of non-lethal items to HMGN was taken.

Government of India is aware of reports suggesting that arms and ammunition have been supplied to Nepal or are under consideration by some countries including Pakistan and China. Government of Nepal has been sensitized to our views in this regard. Government is closely monitoring the issue and will take steps as appropriate.

Bus serivces between India and Bangladesh

†1948. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain steps are being taken to develop bilateral relations and restore mutual faith between India and Bangladesh, if so, the details thereof.

(b) whether initiatives are being taken for restoration of bus service from some routes for enhancing movement between India and Bangladesh;

(c) if so, the routes through which buses would ply between India and Bangladesh;

(d) whether Bangladesh agrees to the fact that anti-India activities are going on in that country; and

(e) if so, the initiatives taken to contain the anti-Indian activities in Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. There have been interactions at high level between India and Bangladesh to develop bilateral relations and restore mutual faith. Prime Minister met Bangladesh Prime Minister on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in July 2004. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister visited India twice in May-June 2004 and in November 2004. Other Ministerial visits from Bangladesh include those of Minister of Commerce in November 2004, Minister of Finance in December 2004 and Health Minister in April 2005. The most recent ministerial visit was by External Affairs Minsiter to Dhaka from August 6-8-2005. Visits by the Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Minister of Water Resources are also expected

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